agriculture Graduates are able to obtain loans from the Banks and set up their ventures.

A total of Rs. 1 crore was sanctioned during the year 2001-2002 for the scheme, which has been fully spent.

MSP of foodgrains

*100. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basis of fixing MSP (Minimum Support Price) for different foodgrains;

(b) which year had been taken as the basic year, to work out the cost;

(c) what has been the percentage of ingredients of different foodgrains since then, price-wise; and

(d) whether the MSPs are going to be co-related with price index; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Government decides on the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various, agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of support prices.

(b) and (c) The cost of cultivation/production estimates are being generated from 1970-71 onwards. To start with cost estimates of two crops *viz.*, wheat and bajra were generated and subsequently, from time to time, other crops were covered. At present, cost estimates of the following 30 major crops are generated:—

Cereals (7)	:	Paddy, Wheat Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi and Barley.
Pulses (5)	:	Arhar, Gram, Moong, Urad and Masur.
Oilseeds (7)	:	Groundnut, Rapeseed and Mustard, Nigerseed, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Safflower.

Fiber Crops (2) : Cotton and Jute.

Others (9) : Sugarcane, Onion, Potato, Ginger, Tapioca, Arecanut, VFC Tobacco, Coconut and Pepper.

A Statement showing the cost of production of wheat, bajra, paddy and jowar in 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1999-2000 is enclosed (*See* below)

(d) The price policy seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the overall needs of the economy. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers a number of important factors, like, cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers, etc. It is not desirable to correlate the MSPs with price index alone.

Statement

Cost of production of selected crops in 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1999-2000

(*Rupees per quintal*)

Crop	State	Cost of Production (Cost C2)		
		1970-71	1971-72	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
Wheat	Haryana	48.10	49.53	396.93
	M.P.	40.36	60.42	537.53
	Punjab	61.04	59.71	396.14
	U.P.	N.A.	50.38	426.57
Bajra	Gujarat	N.A.	49.73	571.72
	Rajasthan	36.82	54.83	345.28*
Paddy	A.P.	N.A.	51.53	509.34
	Assam	N.A.	49.90	467.90
	Orissa	N.A.	40.13	344.73*
	Tamil Nadu	N.A.	53.47	555.65
	West Bengal	N.A.	54.15	490.28

*1997-98

1	2	3	4	5
Jowar	Karnataka	N.A.	45.06	695.23
	Maharashtra	N.A.	57.03	508.98@

N.A. Not Available.
@1998-99

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Central team to assess drought in A.P.

303. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team visited Andhra Pradesh in the month of May, 2002, to assess the impact of drought in the State;

(b) if so, which districts the team visited and discussed the problems with concerned officials;

(c) whether the team has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the action taken on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team visited Medak, Prakasam, Rangareddy and Vizianagaram districts and held discussions with the District Collectors, villagers, farmers and workers. The team also had discussions with the State level officials and a wrap meeting with the State Chief Minister and other Senior Officers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Subsequent to the visit of the team, 5 lakh MTs of foodgrains was allocated to the State under the Special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).